

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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R 311605Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6124

INFO USMM/LIBERIA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

USDAO/MONROVIA

OJCS/J-5

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6074

SECDEF FOR ISA AND DSAA

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: (A) STATE 201236 (B) MONROVIA 3483

1. REFTEL A REPORTS THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SECTION 515 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED, AND STATES THAT AS THIS SECTION APPLIES TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA "... UP TO THREE MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE ASSIGNED TO PERFORM ACCOUNTING AND OTHER MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS. UP TO AN ADDITIONAL THREE MAY BE ASSIGNED WHEN SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE CHIEF OF THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION AS NECESSARY TO EFFICIENT OPERATIONS." REFTEL A CONCLUDES THAT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WILL FOLLOW.

2. AT THIS POINT I WISH TO REQUEST THAT ALL CONCERNED OFFICES OF THE USG REVIEW REFTEL B IN WHICH THE EMBASSY SET FORTH THE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARGUE FOR A CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUATION OF THE USMM/L IN ESSENTIALLY ITS PRESENT FORM, AND WITH ITS PRESENT FUNCTIONS. WHAT IS ARGUED IN REFTEL B IS BASICALLY THAT THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA WITH REGARD TO THE SIZE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE USMM/L SHOULD BE VIEWED ON ITS OWN MERITS AND IN LIGHT OF SPECIFIC U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS IN LIBERIA. ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS REFTEL WHICH DESCRIBES

THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE USMM/L BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ITS CURTAILMENT.

3. SINCE SUBMISSION OF REFTEL B, A NEW FACTOR HAS EMERGED WHICH REINFORCES MY CONVICTION THAT TO ALTER MATERIALLY THE SIZE OR FUNCTIONS OF USMM/L AT THIS TIME WOULD BE CONTRARY TO U.S. INTERESTS IN LIBERIA. IN JULY PRESIDENT TOLBERT DISMISSED MINISTER OF DEFENSE HARRY GREAVES, REPLACING HIM WITH BURLEIGH HOLDER, FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS. SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT, HOLDER (WHO IS THE PRESIDENT'S SON-IN-LAW) HAS LIVED UP TO HIS REPUTATION AS A TOUGH, EFFICIENT AND HONEST ADMINISTRATOR. HE HAS FIXED UPON THE CHIEF WEAKNESSES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL) IN TRAINING, STAFF MANAGEMENT, LOGISTICS AND CORRUPT PRACTICES AND SET IN TRAIN A SERIES OF REFORMS THAT I BELIEVE WILL RESULT IN WHAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT WANTS THE AFL TO BE: A SMALL, EFFECTIVE ARMED FORCE WORTHY OF THE NAME. THERE ARE ALREADY CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT A MAJOR SHAKE-UP OF THE STAFF COMMAND, SO LONG OVERDUE, IS IN THE MAKING. IN MOVING RAPIDLY AND DECISIVELY TOWARD A REFORM OF THE AFL, MINISTER HOLDER HAS ASKED COLONEL HORACE HUNTER, CHIEF OF THE USMM/L, AND THE USMM TO WORK AS A TEAM WITH HIM IN BRINGING ABOUT THE IMPROVEMENTS

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DESIRED AND HAS SOUGHT HUNTER'S ADVICE. MINISTER HOLDER BY HIS ACTIONS HAS SHOWN THAT HE VALUES HIGHLY THE SUPPORT PROVIDED HIM BY USMM OFFICERS. AN EXCELLENT TEAM RELATIONSHIP HAS DEVELOPED WORTHY OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN LIBERIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

4. IF THE USMM/L WERE TO BE REDUCED IN PERSONNEL AND BASICALLY ALTERED IN FUNCTIONS, ONLY HARM TO U.S. INTERESTS COULD RESULT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE INTENT OF CONGRESS THAT APPLICATION OF SECTION 515 TO LIBERIA SHOULD HAVE THIS RESULT. THEREFORE I WISH HERE, IN ACCORD WITH PROVISIONS OF SECTION 515, TO MAKE A SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT THREE MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC COMPLEMENT OF THREE, BE ASSIGNED TO THE USMM/L, FOR A TOTAL OF SIX, WITH THE USMM FUNCTIONS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED.

5. FINALLY, I WISH TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE "AGREEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY MISSION TO LIBERIA", SIGNED AT WASHINGTON JANUARY 11, 1951:

"ANY MEMBER OF THE MISSION MAY BE RECALLED
AT ANY TIME UPON THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PROVIDED A
REPLACEMENT WITH EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS IS
FURNISHED UNLESS IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA THAT NO REPLACE-
MENT IS REQUIRED."

"MEMBERS OF THE MISSION THAT MAY BE REPLACED
SHALL TERMINATE THEIR SERVICES ON THE MISSION
ONLY UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR REPLACE-
MENT, EXCEPT WHEN OTHERWISE MUTUALLY AGREED
UPON IN ADVANCE BY THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS".
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6. AMBASSADOR CARTER CONCURS.
HORAN

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NNN

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